

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price

District 3 Slate

August 2010

Third District, County of San Diego

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Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price explains the economic and environmental benefits of the PACE solar-energy program for the entire region.

Effort Launched To Save Solar Credit

Slater-Price, County State Attorney General Seek To Preserve PACE

A questionable agency decision that disqualifies residential properties that financed the installation of solar-power systems through the annual property tax assessment is being challenged in court by the County of San Diego and the California Attorney General's Office.

Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price and county leaders joined representatives from the State of California to save the innovative PACE – Property Assessed Clean Energy – program that encourages property owners to install solar energy systems by reducing the upfront financial impacts while encouraging “green technology” job growth.

The nation's two federal mortgage lenders, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, announced they would not accept loans from properties with PACE assessments, thereby restricting a property's ability to be sold and/or refinanced.

In response, the California Attorney General's Office filed a lawsuit against the mortgage lenders, contending they were



Flanked by Attorney General Jerry Brown, Supervisor Dianne Jacob and other interested parties, Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price explained the merits of the PACE program.

misinterpreting PACE as a loan against the property instead of an assessment.

“PACE assessments are not loans. They are property tax assessments that stay with the property in the event of a sale just like assessments for fire districts, hospitals and underground utilities,” explained Chairwoman Slater-Price, who joined state Attorney General Jerry Brown at a San Diego news conference announcing the legal challenge.

Brown also told the crowd that he sent a letter to President Barack Obama requesting the nation's chief justice intervene so that

the issue can be resolved without expensive litigation.

Thirteen of the 18 cities in San Diego County and the unincorporated area have adopted the PACE program.

In a letter to President Obama and San Diego County's congressional delegation, Chairwoman Slater-Price wrote:

“PACE programs are among the most promising ways Americans can spur the economy, create jobs, save money and lessen the nation's dependence on foreign oil ... We are deeply troubled by FHFA's (Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac) failure to work with PACE stakeholders to resolve this difference in opinion regarding PACE assessments. We find FHFA's conclusion that PACE assessment's ‘are not essential for successful programs to spur energy conservation,’ insulting, unsubstantiated and far outside the boundaries of that agency's limited expertise.”

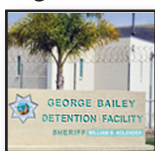
“The PACE program works,” said Chairwoman Slater-Price. “We can reduce the energy output in San Diego County while creating good-paying green jobs. To endanger this program without a clear reason validates the perception that Washington bureaucrats have lost touch with the rest of the nation.”

News of Note

Water Savings Are Significant

Imagine the amount of water used by 1,128 homes over the course of a year. All those showers and loads of laundry, the watering of the lawn, the washing of dishes.

That's how much water is being saved by the County of San Diego following the installation of special toilet valves and ultra-high efficient plumbing fixtures at the county's George Bailey Detention Facility. All that water not being flushed down the drain adds up to an estimated savings of \$942,000 a year. The new ICON devices limit the frequency of toilet flushing due to misuse and reduce the amount of water used in each flush – from 3.5 gallons to 1.6 gallons.



West Nile Makes Its Return

A batch of mosquitoes collected in late July in Lemon Grove tested positive for West Nile virus, the first positive test this year for the potentially-deadly disease. Aerial spraying of known mosquito-breeding areas has already been launched by county health officials.

Rabies Warning Issued

It is that time of year when people and wildlife are in close proximity to each other, which leads to increased warnings of - and exposure to - rabies. Four of 20 bats tested positive for rabies this year - all in the month of June.



County health officials remind residents to avoid bats and other wild animals to minimize exposure to rabies. Bats are most often observed by people during the summer months when young bats leave the roost and insects are abundant. If a bat is found in your home or on your property, contact an animal control agency to safely capture it for rabies testing. For service in the cities of San Diego, Carlsbad, Del Mar, Encinitas, Solana Beach and the unincorporated areas of the county, call (619) 236-4250.

Residents Urged to Update Their Pertussis Immunization

New guidelines from the California Department of Public Health have been issued for pertussis vaccinations in an effort to stem a statewide whooping cough epidemic this year, which now includes one recent death here in San Diego County.

In addition to the regular schedule of childhood and adult immunizations, the San Diego Health and Human Services Agency now recommends an adolescent/adult pertussis booster shot for all individuals 7 years and older who are not fully immunized. Specifically included are those over 64 years of age; women of childbearing age, before, during or immediately after pregnancy; and people who have contact with pregnant women or infants.

"Infants do not have adequate protection from pertussis because they have not completed the vaccinations against the disease pertussis," reports Dr. Wilma Wooten, San Diego County Public Health Officer. "Also, they are more likely to have complications. It's very important for those who are around infants to make sure they are fully vaccinated."

"We are all mourning the death of a 1-month-old boy," said Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price. "Our hearts go out to the family."

San Diego County has recorded 240 cases of pertussis this year, up from the 143 logged last year. There have been 14 hospitalizations due to pertussis in San Diego County so far this year, and 117 in California.



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that children get five doses of DTaP vaccine, one dose at 2 months, 4 mo., 6 months, 15 to 18 months, and 4 to 6 years of age. State health officials expanded the CDC age recommendation for Tdap vaccination to people 7 years of age and older.

These individuals should receive a one-time dose of Tdap, given in place of a "tetanus booster" that is administered every 10 years.

Named for the "whoop" sound children and adults sometimes make when they try to breathe in during or after a severe coughing spell, whooping cough usually starts with flu-like symptoms and a mild cough. These symptoms may be mild and brief, or last up to two weeks, but are often followed by severe coughing fits that may be associated with vomiting. Fever, if present, is usually mild. It is treatable with antibiotics.

For more information about whooping cough, call the HHSA Immunization Branch toll-free at (866) 358-2966, or visit the web site at www.sdiz.org.



Amy Chandler (left) replaced the retiring Sandy Housley (right, holding her proclamation from Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price honoring her career) as the Encinitas branch librarian. "My vision is to become the No. 1-circulating branch of the county library," Chandler said. "Right now we're No. 6." Chandler was employed at the Bonita branch before transferring to Encinitas. The Encinitas library opened in 2008.



Slater-Price , Fire Officials Bring Safety Message to Kids



Chairwoman Slater-Price, safety personnel and YMCA campers pose for a group photo.



Chairwoman Slater-Price receives an update on the county's aerial response program.



Campers explore inside a fire engine while under the watchful eye of a Cal FIRE member.



About 10,000 firecracker-related injuries and more than 10 deaths are reported annually nationwide, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Of those cases, about one in three injured are children.

To raise awareness of the importance of fire safety, Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price and CAL FIRE hosted a Fourth of July Fire Safety Day at the Magdalena Ecke Family YMCA in Encinitas. The safety event welcomed hundreds of YMCA campers to learn about the importance of fire safety in time for the Fourth of July.

"Sadly, one-third of fireworks accident victims are children," Chairwoman Slater-Price said. "And, while Fourth of July is the day synonymous with fireworks, the risk of injury and accidental fire continues through the summer."

CAL FIRE, Encinitas Fire Department and the San Diego County Sheriff's Department provided fire safety tips so children and their families could enjoy a safe and fun Fourth of July. Fire engines and trucks were on display and firefighters provided tours of the equipment. Additionally, Sheriff and CAL FIRE's Bell 205 helicopter made a special landing at the event and demonstrated an emergency rescue for the crowd.



Innovative, Aggressive Health Program Introduced

Editor's Note: the "3-4-50" Program was introduced by Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price in her Feb. 10 State of the County Address. It is a new, innovative and aggressive County program to help bring about healthy lifestyles and save taxpayer money through prevention.

By Walt Ekard
Chief Administrative Officer

In case you missed it in the newspaper...oh, that's right, you couldn't find it in the newspaper. But ... Something really good happened at the Board of Supervisors meeting.

A veritable plethora of important regional players from the healthcare industry and business to non-profit agencies and community activists were on hand to support the Supervisors in launching their new Health Strategy Agenda we call "Building Better Health."

This exciting new initiative is a blueprint for improving the health of our community and the quality of our lives over the next decade. It's a framework that will focus on a smarter delivery of services and helping San Diegans lead healthier lives. It is about enabling. It is about informing. It is about providing the tools we all need to help us make good choices.

One thing it is not about is spending money we don't have. They'll be no raising of taxes or borrowing from our kids. It is about spending the tax dollars we have in a more targeted, focused fashion.

You'll be hearing a lot about "3-4-50" in the coming months and years. Did you know that

three risk factors (tobacco use, poor diet and physical inactivity), contribute to four of the most prevalent chronic diseases (cancer, cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and respiratory disease) which are responsible for more than 50 percent of all deaths worldwide?

It's even worse in San Diego, where 57 percent of local deaths are attributed to those four diseases. The fact is the statistics for we granola-eating San Diegans are no better than for those fried chicken-chomping Kentuckians or those strung-out, stressed-out New Yorkers.

A study several years ago estimated the annual healthcare cost in our community just for these four chronic diseases at nearly \$4 billion. That's almost as big as the entire County budget this year. The County's new Health Strategy is designed to do something about that.

We're going to challenge you Marlboro-loving, French fry-eating, couch potatoes to at least think a little more about your health. We want to help you live a lot longer than you probably otherwise will. Now, don't get me wrong, I don't like government trying to tell me what I can and can't do any more than the next guy. The Health Strategy is not about telling you which health provider you must use or what kind of insurance you have to have. It's about empowering each of us to take command of our own health.

I don't smoke, but I do admit to occasionally forgetting about the importance of the five basic food groups. I don't exactly eat carrot sticks while watching NASCAR races. (Yes, I do

watch NASCAR races). And I have been known to spend most of a Sunday in the comfort of a Lazy Boy. So I am not one to preach on this.

If you want to smoke...well then go ahead and smoke. If you want chow down, then enter all the hot dog-eating contests you want. If you want to wear out the cushions on your couch, by all means go ahead.

But the truth is, just because we're allowed our bad habits doesn't mean we should otherwise ignore the ramifications of our behavior. It seems to me that the County's job as a public health leader in this region should be to provide you with objective information about what unhealthy habits do to your longevity, and then let you decide whether longevity matters to you. (I can tell you for sure it matters to me. I plan to do whatever is necessary to ensure I get to see my grandchildren graduate from college, even if it means I have to cut back on my bacon intake!).

If the Health Strategy Agenda can provide the motivation for rethinking our behavior, we've not only helped add years to our lives, we've helped control the exploding cost of health care. And in the end, isn't that what real health care reform should be about?

I hope I've piqued your interest a little bit in what we plan to do. We have much work ahead with our community partners and stakeholders to put flesh on the bones (that's 96 percent lean flesh!) of our plan, and determine the best way to measure our progress. So stay tuned for more ... and I'll see you at the gym!

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